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PERSONAL SKETCH—EARL GREY.

By one of those sudden changes in the administration of the Government, which public opinion can accomplish in a free state only, Earl Grey has assumed the Premiership of England. The rapidity of this political movement was remarkable—in a single week the Wellington ministry was displaced, and the administration of Lord Grey quietly settled in its stead. The Noble Earl has seized the helm of state, at a crisis the most memorable in the history of the world. Every day we receive tidings of fresh revolutions, of ancient dynasties overthrown, and ancient wrongs avenged. The inhabitants of Europe seem to have engaged in a secret and mighty combination to work out their liberty—the last revolutionary movement was more glorious than the first—the Poles have taken up arms, and justice will be at length exacted for that unparalleled deed of infamy, the partition of Poland. Good will result from evil—the valiant Poles will bravely resist the autocrat of the north, checking the progress of his barbarous hordes, and shaking the thrones of ignorance and darkness. At such an eventful moment it may not be unuseful to examine, even briefly, the merits and conduct of the minister who wields the destinies of England, and thereby influences those of Europe, to see whether he possesses the courage, wisdom, ability, and goodness, requisite for the mighty task he has undertaken. Earl Grey was the friend and rival of statesmen, worth one hundred such as now-a-days are; individuals, who, at a time fruitful in the production of great men, were celebrated for wit and learning, eloquence and knowledge, and for those loftier attributes of the soul which elevate and dignify mankind. I have never looked upon this noble person, or heard the lessons of wisdom fall from his lips, but I have felt my respect increased, and my admiration quickened, by the reflection that he has mingled in the same debate with men whose names are imperishable in the history of their country; that he was not obscured by the soaring genius of Burke, nor eclipsed by the impassioned oratory of Fox; that he has stood up against the dread enemy of Napoleon, the haughty and impracticable Pitt, and came forth unscathed from the conflict.

It is not necessary, in a sketch of this description, to allude in chronological order to facts which can at most be only slightly touched on. I would, therefore, refer to the debate in the Lords in May, 1827, in the course of which Earl Grey pronounced his celebrated philippic against Mr. Canning, for the purpose of extracting a sentence which expresses a fixed intention not to mingle again actively in public affairs—a determination which it is the prevailing fashion for Lords and Commons to adopt, only to abandon at another and more convenient opportunity. It is as follows:—"Those who had done him the honour to attach any importance to his opinions, were aware that he had for some years been withdrawing himself more and more from a direct interference in the politics of the country. As long, however, as he did remain, he was anxious to be in that situation in which he could do what he considered most good. *To take a more active part in public life, was quite out of his intention, non eadem alas, non mens.*" Strange, that some years after he should have discovered that his age was fresh enough, and his understanding vigorous enough, to enable him to take a more active part in public life, and accept the very office for the assumption of which he had so unsparingly lashed his brilliant, but unfortunate opponent. That speech, it was said, more than any other event, wounded the pride of Canning,

and hastened his early dissolution ; and yet there was not an intemperate, a violent expression throughout the whole of it ; on the contrary, it was cold and dignified, emanating apparently from a strict sense of duty alone, without any admixture of pride or envy. But it contained stubborn truths, for the controverting of which, the shafts of wit or the powers of eloquence, were alike unavailing—he proved Canning to be a friend of corruption—an enemy to religious toleration—an enemy to reform—and an enemy to civil liberty ; and then, repeating the words above given, coolly sat down. The scene is thus graphically described in *Blackwood* for February, 1828, by one of the ablest contributors to that excellent magazine, though, perhaps, somewhat highly coloured by the talent and party-zeal of the writer :—“ The newspapers of the day give no adequate idea of the wonderful effect of Lord Grey’s speech of the 11th of May. While he was speaking, and pouring forth invectives, which fell, like a torrent of bitter waters, full upon Canning’s devoted head, the House of Peers, which was extremely crowded, hung with breathless attention upon his words, and when he had concluded, no man rose up to gainsay that which he had spoken. Mr. Canning’s party stood aghast at the fearful castigation of their leader, and the Tories felt that any thing more would be superfluous. In a few minutes the House was empty—men’s minds were too full of what they had heard, to allow them to address themselves to the ordinary business of the House, and it adjourned almost immediately, notwithstanding the earliness of the hour. The news flew about as swift as the wind, that Lord Grey had destroyed Mr. Canning in the House of Lords, and it soon reached the Premier himself. The iron entered his soul—he found he had climbed a pinnacle, only to be the more conspicuous to scorn—but he was not a man to sit down and weep under his mortification. His bitter thoughts lashed him into fury.”

“ Tis not in words to tell the power,
The despotism, that from that hour
Passion held o’er him.”

It was reported at the time, that he solicited a peerage from the king, that he might take vengeance in the Lords upon his relentless assailant.

His lordship when Mr. Grey, and but a youthful member of the House of Commons, ventured to engage in bitter and acrimonious contest with Mr. Burke, who, irritated by the vexatious behaviour of Mr. Grey, in casting up against him his own early speeches in favour of the Americans, frequently suffered his passion so far to master his judgment, as to indulge in coarse and personal vituperation, discreditable to his taste and genius. The following conclusion of a speech of Burke’s in 1793, to which the then Mr. Grey replied, may startle those who have been accustomed to believe that whatever fell from his lips was brilliant and classical :—“ Gentlemen who were so charmed with the lights of this new philosophy, might say, that age had rendered my eyes too dim to perceive the glorious blaze. But old though I am, I see well enough to distinguish that it was not the light of heaven, but the light of rotten wood and stinking fish—the gloomy sparkling of collected filth, corruption, and putrefaction.

So have I seen, in larder dark,
Of veal a sparkling loin,
Replete with many a brilliant spark
As sage philosophers remark,
At once both stink and shine ! ”

Mr. Grey answered boldly—“ The opprobrious terms of reproach

made use of by Mr. Burke, without proof of any kind, might be equally well repeated by a parrot, it could pronounce the word 'monsters,' it could also say 'Brissot, the most virtuous of pickpockets.' His sentiments, about this period, were frequently repeated with regard to the partition of Poland, which measure, and the combination of despots by whom it was perpetrated, he condemned in the most unqualified language. If he still retain the honest opinions of his youth, touching that detestable act of perfidy and rapine, he will scarcely allow the principle of non-interference to be infringed for the purpose of crushing the brave Poles, and suppressing their noble aspirations for their long lost freedom. In a debate in the same eventful year, Mr. Grey professed himself an ardent admirer of Dr. Priestley, and warmly eulogised his character and conduct; and while he justly denounced the rabble of the times, who, in their blind fury, destroyed the property of the intemperate and vacillating philosopher, he committed himself by asserting, that in no instance did the writings of Priestley tend to the disturbance of social order, or the infringement of civil liberty; different was the opinion of an illustrious historian, who, in a note to his immortal work, recommends to public animadversion two passages in Doctor Priestley, which betray the ultimate tendency of his opinions. "At the first of these* the priest, at the second† the magistrate, may tremble." Possibly were the Noble Lord now interrogated upon his bold assertion as to Priestley's principles, he would say it was a fanciful notion of his youth, unthinkingly adopted, and which, together with his boyish notions about reform, he has long since and wisely abandoned. He seems to have been of a prophetic turn of mind, and amused himself with predictions upon his entrance into public life, soon after the American war, none of which were ultimately fulfilled; he predicted the ruin of England if Parliament was not reformed, but England is not yet ruined, and Parliament is not yet reformed. The French revolution was next to spread happiness over the face of the earth, but *that* revolution, unlike the one by which it has been so gloriously succeeded, spread horror and desolation. His next prediction was, that the British armies would be ruined in Spain, and that Bonaparte would subdue the world; but the British armies triumphed over the French, and the splendid despotism of Napoleon has been overthrown. Of all Earl Grey's earlier opinions none are regarded now with such intense interest, as those which he is known to have entertained upon the subject of Parliamentary reform; it is necessary for the public to understand with accuracy what those opinions were, and to see whether, even in a modified degree, they can be acted upon at the present moment. His plan of reform has been constantly referred to, as also his exposé of what he then considered the defects in the representation of the country, which has formed, as it were, a text-book for other reformers, some of whom, in their wisdom, have been disposed to proceed to greater lengths in their radicalism, even than the premier himself. The radical press, accordingly, have been in the habit of applauding his lordship for his patriotism and manly spirit, upon the memorable occasion of the presentment to the Commons of the celebrated petition, got up by a society, called "the Friends of the People," praying for a sweeping change in our representative system. If the fitness of Earl Grey for the task of a sensible reformer, were to be estimated by the tone and reasoning of that petition, it would be difficult to select in the whole empire a person more disqualified, Cobbett and

* History of the Corruptions of Christianity, vol. 1, p. 275-6. † *Ib.* p. 484.

Hunt not excepted. The petition was grounded upon the most dangerous and mistaken views, which the petitioners modestly called "*principle*," proportioning the representatives to the number of constituents. Nothing would be more easy than to demonstrate the utter absurdity of this monstrous doctrine; it is upon the face of it glaringly unconstitutional, for it tramples upon the fundamental principle of representation—property. Lord John Russell, whom no man could accuse of leaning to the side of corruption, in his temperate and philosophical work on the British Constitution, avows, in his chapter upon the House of Commons, that the notions of Earl Grey, as contained in that petition, are unsound and indefensible. To the trashy complaints of these "Friends of the People," he gives the following convincing and excellent reply:—"You complain of the formation of the House of Commons, such as it has existed from the revolution to the present time. You prove that the frame of our government has been from that time a corrupt combination for private purposes. Now our fathers and our grandfathers have told us, that during that time they were very free and very happy. Their testimony is confirmed by the wisest philosophers, the greatest lawyers, the most enthusiastic poets of the time. Your theory goes to overthrow the testimony of Blackstone, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Thompson, Cowper, and a hundred others, who have declared England to be in their time in the enjoyment of complete freedom. Now government is matter of experience, and not of speculation; we will, therefore, rest contented with things as they are." Fox, sensible of the weight of this objection, put, in 1797, the question on different grounds; he proposed to recur to first principles, and re-constitute the state—which, although revolutionary, had, at least, the merit of being candid and intelligible.

Earl Grey has solemnly recanted these unwise opinions, and deserves praise, but in a very moderate degree, for the abandonment of notions which the sensible portion of the community pronounced to be untenable and irrational. Still it is useful to recur to these events, for they assist us in forming a correct judgment upon the character and intellect of the man: unquestionably his Lordship's friends may with truth assert, that inconsistency is preferable to a blind obstinacy in error; but it is as certain, that he cannot deserve lofty panegyrics for his comprehension and sagacity, who, at the age of manhood, embraced opinions upon a momentous subject, which in after life he felt ashamed to avow, and unable to maintain. His present intentions upon reform may, perhaps, be fairly collected from the substance of a speech delivered by him on a motion for a committee on the state of the nation, in 1810. "The question of reform (he says) has long engaged my most serious contemplation. At an early period of my life, I certainly took up strong opinions upon this subject, and pursued them with all that eager hope and sanguine expectation so natural to the ardour of youth. I will not say that there may not have arisen some difference between my present sentiments and former impressions; still, I beg leave to assure your lordships, that the *general opinions* I then formed, I have not in my maturer age, seen cause to change; and that whatever distinction exists between my early and my present views of reform, on its great grounds that question has not been abandoned by me..... Still, after the most serious and dispassionate consideration, it is my conscientious opinion, that much good would result from the adoption of the salutary principle of reform, gradually applied to the correction of those existing abuses, to which the progress of time must have unavoidably given birth, taking especial care that the measures of reform to be pursued should be

marked out by the constitution itself, and in no case exceed its wholesome limits. But as I never have, so I never will rest my ideas of salutary reform on the grounds of theoretic perfection. While I shall ever be ready to correct, by the fixed principles of the constitution, an admitted inconvenience, where that is practically felt, I continue to disapprove of all those general and vague speculations in which some men would wish to engage." And he proceeds to fortify this opinion by the authority of Mr. Fox, who compared the constitution to a house, as Blackstone did to a gothic castle, which was to be altered to suit the taste and convenience of the proprietor. Lord Grey, of course, did not mean the authority of Mr. Fox in 1797, when he wished to remodel the constitution, but his authority at some other time. And it is in truth delightful, in looking over the speeches of most parliamentary orators, to think, that different individuals professing different political sentiments, may suit themselves with a speech of the same speakers, according to their peculiar fancy. The immaculate electors of Preston, who boast of having returned the patriot Hunt, may bellow for universal suffrage; an intelligent public will resist the levelling doctrine which would give the whole power to money and to the multitude, and so disfranchise the middle class, the most disinterested, the most independent, and unprejudiced in the state. The interest of the middle class should be strengthened, not weakened by the intended reform; and those who cry aloud for the abolition of *all* boroughs, would do well to bestow some consideration upon the matter, to read a little, and think a little. If such persons could be prevailed upon to look into the valuable book on "Public Opinion," by Mackinnon, they will there find it proved to a demonstration, that boroughs do represent important interests in the state—the monied interest, and personal property, which constitute a vast mass of the nation's wealth. And what is of more vital moment still, that if all boroughs be abolished, the aristocracy of intellect must inevitably be excluded. This is evident from the fact, that the most eminent men that ever adorned the senate, and gave strength to its councils by their wisdom, and glory to its debates by the splendour of their eloquence—the men of professional fame, and literary distinction—have sat for boroughs. How can such men effect their entrance into the senate, not possessing wealth, or family connections? or can their places be supplied by rich boobies, who may buy their seats, or demagogues who may delude the rabble, and wheedle them out of their votes for the base purposes of faction? On the occasion of the Queen's trial, Earl Grey took a prominent part. Throughout the proceedings he inveighed with bitterness against the conduct of the ministry; and while acting, apparently, from a strict sense of duty only, manifested the zeal of the partizan. His speech upon the evidence was a masterly performance, not distinguished for florid oratory, or sounding declamation, but displaying rather the acuteness and logic of the lawyer, accustomed to sift and analyse perplexed and conflicting evidence. His peroration was far from being brilliant, yet it was impressive, and carried with it an air of sincerity and conviction, which gave weight and dignity to every word he spoke. He disclaimed then, as on many other occasions, the possibility of his being influenced by popular clamour.

Several sketches of the political career of the Noble Earl having appeared in the newspapers of the day, we think it unnecessary to go further into the subject at present, than to observe that he cannot be charged with inconsistency for his coalition with Lord Grenville; the desertion of former opinions can be ascribed with fairness to the

latter Noble Lord only. The union never could have been cordial, for the subject of this sketch, in his political career, was the most opposite that is possible to be conceived to Lord Grenville—they were absolutely political antipodes. And the time was, when the great aristocratic Lord, then minister for Foreign Affairs, would, as a political writer has observed, have gladly seen Mr. Grey, and some dozen of his companions, sent out of the country, as men subversive of peace and good government. But

“ Time, whose gentle influence makes a calf an ox,
And brings all natural events to pass,”

brought about that unnatural coalition, and the two noblemen stuck together as the shirt of Nessus did to the body of Hercules. Earl Grey was one of those who formed the ministry denominated “ All the Talents ;” a ministry most unfortunate in their measures, and who lost while in office, the fame which they had deservedly gained while in opposition. Although jealous of his rank, and resolved “ to stand by his order ;” the title he bears is of very modern creation ; for it, he is indebted to the bravery of his father in those wars, the commencement and continuance of which the present Noble Lord uniformly condemned.* In person, he is tall and commanding, his head is partly bald, and his countenance, although severe, is dignified and intellectual. Age does not seem to have injured his health, or weakened his constitution ; his features are placid, but convey a haughty expression ; he is remarkably thin, and his height increases in appearance the spare habit of his body ; his action is not graceful, for he has acquired the practice of hiding one hand beneath his coat-skirt, as if standing near the fire, which is very unbecoming, but at times he extends his arms to their full length, and then his attitude is manly and imposing. He frequently, throughout his speech, advances from his seat towards the table, and retires again ; but with him this is an easy movement, unlike the awkward motions of Sir Robert Peel, who paces at regular intervals, and with invariable sameness, between the table and the bench, poising one leg upon his toe, lifting up his hand and laying it down again with the regularity of a pendulum. The tones of Lord Grey’s voice are clear, but not varied or harmonious, and his utterance is distinct and firm ; although, when last I heard him, on Lord Wynford’s motion, his voice faltered, and he stammered in speaking ; but this, possibly might be owing to the effects of a severe cold under which he evidently laboured—to me it seemed, as if the cares of office had already begun to press heavily upon him. Of his style of oratory I have next to speak. On this subject the writers of the day are loud in his praise—he is by them ranked amongst the most famous of the contemporaries of his youth, and is, as it were by one accord,

* Earl Grey is the eldest son of General, afterwards Sir Charles Grey, K.B. who was an aid de camp to Prince Ferdinand at the battle of Minden, and held a command during the American war. At the breaking out of the war with France, in 1793, he assisted at the relief of Ostend and Nieuport, and having been appointed commander-in-chief in the West Indies, succeeded in reducing Martinique, St. Lucie, and Gaudaloupe. In 1801, he was created Baron Grey de Hlowick, and in 1806, Viscount Howick and Earl Grey. He descended from a very ancient family in the north of England. Sir Charles was the younger brother of Sir Henry Grey, Bart. who dying without issue, his title and estates descended to the present Earl Grey, who was bred to the Bar ; but in consequence of the intention of his uncle, Sir Henry, to constitute him his heir, he ceased to devote himself to the practice of his profession ; and becoming early in life a member of the house of commons for the county of Northumberland, he rapidly attained eminence as a speaker in Parliament. He is somewhat older than the Duke of Wellington, being about sixty-six, the Duke being sixty-two in May next.

placed at the head of all living orators. I must (not, I hope, in a spirit of presumptuous criticism,) deny his claims to the character of an orator. It is preposterous in the newspaper-men to say, that he is like Burke, Fox, or Sheridan; he is the direct opposite in every respect to any thing I have ever read, or heard, or can conceive of these three immortal senators. Will any man, save a sycophant, venture to assert, that in any one speech Earl Grey ever delivered in the whole course of his life, he displayed the sublime philosophy of Burke, or breathed thoughts comparable with his glorious conceptions? or can his stately language be assimilated with the burning words which issued from the rich and boundless imagination of his mighty rival? A finished and classical education, like that which Earl Grey received, may accomplish much for the public speaker; yet, after all, his brightest efforts are but darkness, when matched against the light and splendour of heaven-born genius. With less justice still, could the imperious Premier be likened to the bold and impetuous Fox, either as to language or appearance; about *him* there was nothing cold or studied; he was vigorous, impassioned, and often indiscreet; he expressed himself in hurried sentences, in involuntary exclamations, by vehement gestures, by sudden starts, and bursts of passion. "Every thing, (said a celebrated political writer) showed the agitation of his mind; his tongue faltered, his voice became almost suffocated, and his face was bathed in tears. He was lost in the magnitude of his subject. He reeled and staggered under the load of feeling which oppressed him. He rolled like the sea, beaten by a tempest." We are told that Sheridan sat quaffing old port in Bellamy's, till he ascertained that "Charley's waistcoat was open," and then hastened to participate in the triumph of his friend. When was Earl Grey ever guilty of any of these glorious indiscretions? It would be undignified in him to evince deep emotion, or to suffer storms of passion, which should convulse vulgar souls only, to ruffle the serenity of his aristocratic temper. He was inferior to the beloved and affectionate Fox, in every attribute necessary to the attainment of oratorical renown, or the management of a popular assembly. It would be a mockery to class Earl Grey with the injured Sheridan—for Sheridan was a man of genius and a plebeian. I can laugh at those who presume to censure Sheridan, or detract from his fame; and I exult, when reading the imperishable memorials he has left behind him, of humour, "*gay as the fire-fly's light*," of dazzling wit, of brilliant and fascinating eloquence. Posterity will do him justice, and his name will stand higher on the roll of fame, than that of the haughtiest aristocrat in the land. Earl Grey would perish sooner than protest, with uplifted crutches, as did the dying Chatham, against the iniquity of injustice and oppression; but to his son, William Pitt, I should conceive the Noble Earl to bear a strong resemblance. William Pitt was an aristocrat by nature—like him, Lord Grey is a logician, addicted to the cold formalities of speech—and like him, stiff, unbending, bitter, and relentless. Whether as a minister of state he will display the same strength of mind, the same confidence in his own resources, and the same tenacity of purpose, as Pitt, is yet to be proved. I heard his lordship speak for an hour in reply to Lord Wynford; he arrested my attention forcibly, so that I listened with a deep interest, and felt not the fatigue of standing while he spoke; he proved to a demonstration, that Lord Wynford's was a silly motion; he convinced my understanding; but such a speech as he then delivered, could not in the remotest degree affect the feelings, or touch the heart. Great political experience, extensive research, and long practice, have made him an

exact and argumentative speaker, but to the higher and nobler excellencies of the orator, he never can aspire. I believe Earl Grey to be a man of frigid disposition, of severe correctness of mind; his very elegance like that of the most finished works of the sculptor, has a certain coldness and hardness in it; while we admire his abilities, we cannot love the man. He seems to have as little of softness in his nature as Brougham, but he is without Brougham's impetuosity of passion, which shows that he has a heart in his bosom, although its gentle emotions are sometimes overmastered by the huge tide of stronger and darker feelings that flow from the same source. His oratory is clear, forcible, and elegant, but it produces neither enthusiasm nor tears; its fountains are the reason and memory. His panegyrics are elaborate and precise, and commonly rounded with a classical quotation for the sake of elegant effect; his philippics are carefully-wrought compositions of bitter and passionless severity; the arrows of his vengeance seem pointed with icicles. The intrepidity of Lord Grey is greatly mixed up with pride, and his temper is highly aristocratic; even when he is desirous to appear scornful, he seems to disdain the semblance of angry emotion; he knows that anger is a levelling and vulgar passion, while scorn is a feeling proper to a superior. Without fervour of feeling himself, he has little sympathy with that of others. If he could have appreciated the soul which animated Mr. Canning's speeches, and caused his sometimes hasty conduct, he could not have struck at him as he did, and lacerated the sensitive heart of an absent man with his cold, proud, and scornful reproaches. However strong the facts urged against Mr. Canning may have been, Earl Grey cannot easily be forgiven for the motives which prompted him to make so unfeeling an attack upon one of the most accomplished gentlemen that ever lived. Would his lordship have ventured to say so much in Mr. Canning's presence? could he have resisted him whom Brougham dreaded, or could he have withstood the matchless wit, the polished sarcasm, and enchanting eloquence of Mr. Canning? Despite the heartless irony of Lord Grey, the name of Canning is still worshipped all over the globe as the zealous friend of liberty, and when he fell, as Mackintosh beautifully expressed it, the lovers of despotism "raised a loud shout of joy at the downfall of their common enemy." He was the best of husbands, and the best of sons, and was accompanied to the grave by the sighs and tears of his affectionate countrymen, who pardoned his failings from admiration of his unrivalled genius. Earl Grey is proud of his order and rank, which, as much as his talents, have gained him the Premiership of England; but his exertions are as nothing, when compared with the efforts of a man, who, like Canning, without the adventitious aids of birth and fortune, forced his way to the highest station in the councils of the state, by the resistless influence of his commanding talents. Lord Grey's efforts in the cause of reform and political liberty, if they be sincere, must come from the deductions of his reason: as to that generous enthusiasm for liberty, which springs from the heart and the imagination, I should as soon expect the statue of one of his ancestors to feel it as himself. Few men possibly would be better calculated for the post of prime minister in ordinary times, but I am apprehensive he does not feel enough for the people. The Duke did not; and *he*, perhaps, may split upon the same rock; he will give them reform, but he is unmindful of their cries for bread. His lordship is a friend to the diffusion of knowledge, and a patron of the London University. At the first distribution of prizes within the walls of that infant institution, Earl Grey presided, and awarded the honours

with stately dignity and aristocratical composure ; his exhortation to the prizemen to persevere in their studies with unabated ardour, was eloquent and impressive ; and he concluded his address by paying a compliment to Mr. Brougham, not less beautiful than it was deserved.

W.

* * * Our valued correspondent seems in the foregoing article to differ from us in *some* of his political views—while conscientiously holding our own, we cannot have any objection to put forward his—for which we desire not to be held responsible.—ED.

LINES WRITTEN AT SEA.

I love to see the milk-white foam,
I love to see it rise,
As it sparkles in the sunny beam,
As it dances towards the skies.
I love the fair receding shore,
With groves and villas gay,
I love to see the water birds
Dip lightly in the spray.
I love the green and glassy waves,
I love the changing clouds—
The glories of the sun-lit noon,
And ev'ning's sober shrouds.
To nature, thro' her wide domains,
My ceaseless vows I bring ;
Whether enthron'd in winter's storms,
Or blooming in the spring.
Yes, nature—yes, I bow to thee
Alike, in sun and snow—
In ev'ry varying mood and form,
My spirit owns thy glow.

ANNA MARIA.

TRIGONOMETRY—DIFFERENTIAL & INTEGRAL CALCULUS.*

We are old enough to remember when a treatise on the Differential and Integral Calculus would have been received by the students of the University of Dublin, much as the monks of yore are said to have received books in the Greek language—with the self-consoling remark, *Græcum est legi non potest*. The change that has since been wrought, is such as to render almost incredible how short the period is since the doctrine of quadratic equations was looked upon as the very summit of an undergraduate's analytical attainments, and a portion of Maclaurin's fluxions the greatest extent to which even fellowship candidates were wont to penetrate into the region of transcendental science. If Dublin was behind her British sisters in the introduction of what were then called "the French Mathematics," the rapidity of her progress—unequalled, we venture to assert, by that of Cambridge, and far surpassing that of Oxford—has amply proved that inferiority in talent was not the real cause of her delinquency. In confirmation of this opinion we shall merely

* Elements of Plain and Spherical Trigonometry ; with the first principles of Analytic Geometry. By James Thomson, LL.D. Professor of Mathematics in Belfast College. Second edition. Belfast, 1830.

An Introduction to the Differential and Integral Calculus ; with an Appendix, illustrative of the Theory of Curves. By James Thomson, LL.D. Professor of Mathematics in Belfast College. Belfast : Simms and McIntyre : 1831.